



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII

999 18th STREET - SUITE 500
DENVER, COLORADO 80202-2466

455901 - R8 SDMS

382042

455901

INITIAL POLLUTION REPORT

County Line Mercury Site
Douglas County, Colorado

ADMINISTRATIVE
RECORD

FILE PLAN

2.17.01

I. HEADING

Date: May 5, 1996
Site Name: County Line Mercury
From: Pete Stevenson, OSC
To: Anne Spencer, EPA Headquarters
Emergency Response
POLREP No.: POLREP #1

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.: 5J
Delivery Order No.: 7608-076
Response Authority: CERCLA
ERNS No: CO960317
CERCLIS No:
Action Memo Status:
Start Date : May 5, 1996
Completion date: N/A

III. INCIDENT INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA Classic Emergency, Fund-Lead

B. Site

1. Site Description

The Site is a 3'-4' storm drain which leads to McClellan Reservoir and several apartments - all of which are located at approximately 600 West County Line in Douglas County, Colorado.

2. Description of Threat

It appears that several vials of mercury have been illegally dumped in a storm drain at 600 West County Line. Two vials were found inside the apartments at this location and several more were found at the entrance to the storm drain. Children had found the vials and were playing with or dumping them in or near the apartments. The storm sewer where the vials were found leads to McLellan Reservoir which is the water supply for the City of Littleton.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

The Littleton Fire Department contacted the State of Colorado at midnight on 5/4/96 relative to a need for help in the cleanup of the mercury spill. The State Hazmat Team was not available, so the State contacted EPA for help at 1000 on 5/5/96. An OSC and EPA toxicologist, along with EPA's START and ERCS team members, mobilized to the Site in order to provide technical assistance and assess the Site.

2. Removal Actions to date

The Littleton Fire Department (LFD) secured the 2 vials of mercury which were found at the apartments and evacuated families from two apartments. LFD also used a shop vacuum to retrieve mercury in the apartments. Seven vials/bottles of mercury were found outside the apartment and they were also secured by LFD.

3. Planned Removal Actions

The OSC, EPA toxicologist, and EPA Contractors will provide technical assistance in identification of cleanup areas and assist the Locals with blood mercury samples and assessing potential migration of mercury to the water supply reservoir.

EPA has noted that there is spillage around the areas of 5 apartments on the concrete walkways and landscaping. Carpet will probably have to be removed in two apartments and the disposal/sink areas must be tested for contamination. Individuals who touched and/or played with the mercury will need to be tested and possibly blood sampling will be necessary.

EPA will assist in the investigation of the sewer and storm drain to determine if mercury can be found in them and/or if it has migrated downgrade. EPA also will assist in the investigation of the origin of the mercury to determine if there was illegal dumping and/or if the children obtained the mercury in a different way.

V. COST INFORMATION

Unavailable at this time.